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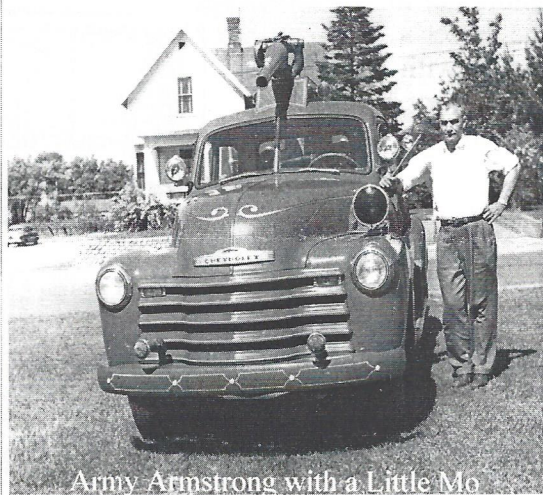
Kristy Rubyor

From the Director's Desk

TOWN OF WEBB HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 513, OLD FORGE, NY 13420
PHONE: 315 369-3838

Goodsell Museum

Local Adirondack History



Army Armstrong with a Little Mo

A “Little Mo” COMES HOME

In the 1940's Walter Lewis "Army" Armstrong started a company in Old Forge called "Army's Fire Service". Thru this company Army sold fire equipment, some for the Young Fire Equipment Co. of Buffalo, which also built large framed fire trucks.

Seeing the need for small economical fire truck that would be affordable for small fire companies, would only require one or two men to operate, have the basic firefighting tools to combat the fire until the larger more cumbersome trucks could get to the scene, he designed a truck he called the "Little Mo". Built on a pickup truck chaise, it would have a large water tank, foam capabilities and a high pressure pump and nozzle.

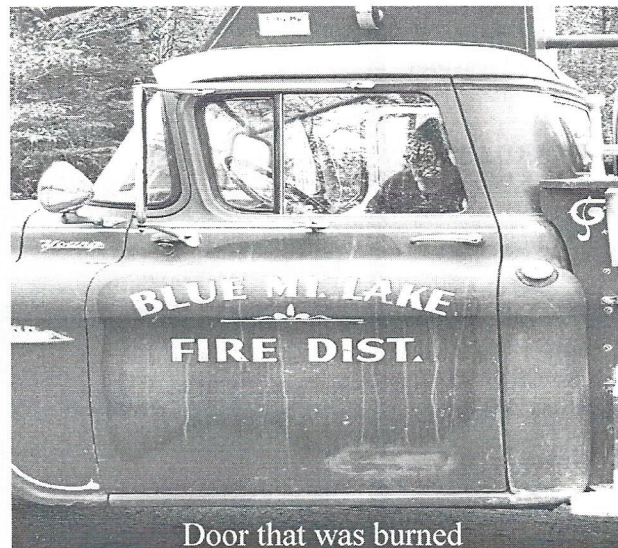


This truck has been donated to the Goodsell Museum by the Adirondack Experience. Built for Armstrong in 1955, it was purchased from Army's Fire Service in 1956 by the Blue Mt Lake Volunteer Fire Department and actively used in service until 1987 when it was purchased by the Adirondack Museum to be used on its campus and retired in 2008.

The truck is a 1955 Chevrolet 3600 pickup (6 cylinder 235 cubic inch engine) that was modified to use as a fire truck. She is 8'6"H, 6' 11" W and 15' 1" L. She has a foam generator that is used for petroleum based fire suppression and has a 275 gallon water tank with a 250GPM high pressure gear pump.

The Little Mo comes to us complete with helmets, jackets, air tanks and Scott airpacks, Co2 extinguishers, ax, aluminum extension ladder, 4" suction hose to supply water, 3" canvass hose, 1 1/2" canvass hose, 2 wind up hose reels with 3/4" high pressure rubber hose (with nozzles) and an inflatable lifting pad.

Needless to say that the Goodsell Museum is excited to have the Little Mo. The question is: do we restore her to her original condition or leave her "as is"? The driver's side door was burned at a house fire and repainted with just the fire district name, it speaks to her work history, do we leave it? There are arguments to made for each side.....! *What do you think?*



Door that was burned



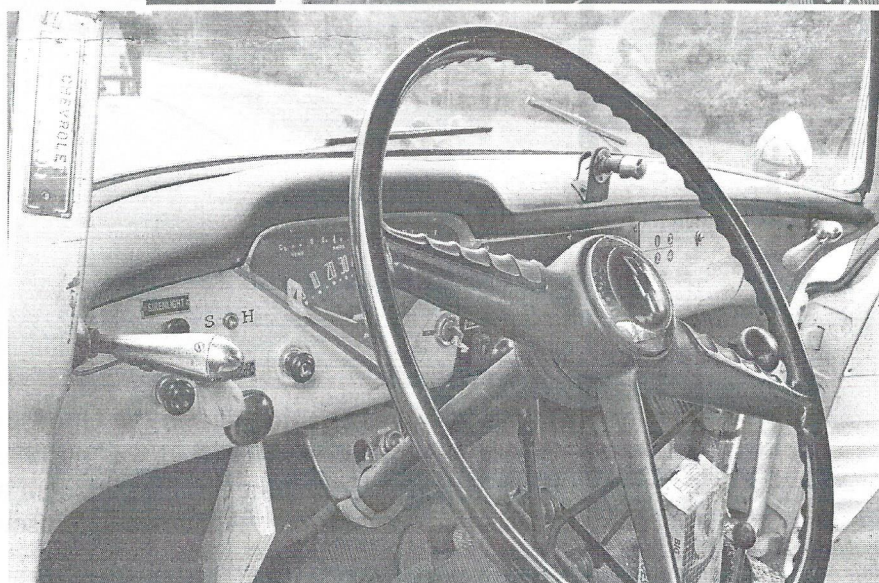
This plaque is mounted on the cab roof turret



We want to thank **Paul Morin** of Morin's Towing in Old Forge for going to get the truck.

Thank you to **Will and Andrea Hollister** of Hollister's Trading Post, for storing the truck until next spring.

And THANK YOU to the **Adirondack Experience** for your donation.



**THANK YOU
ROBERT GOODSSELL
FOR MAKING
YOUR HOME OUR HOME!**

At right:
Robert Goodsell and his sister Tena
Goodsell Titus stand on the corner in front
of the Goodsell home in this 1977 picture.



BIG MOOSE

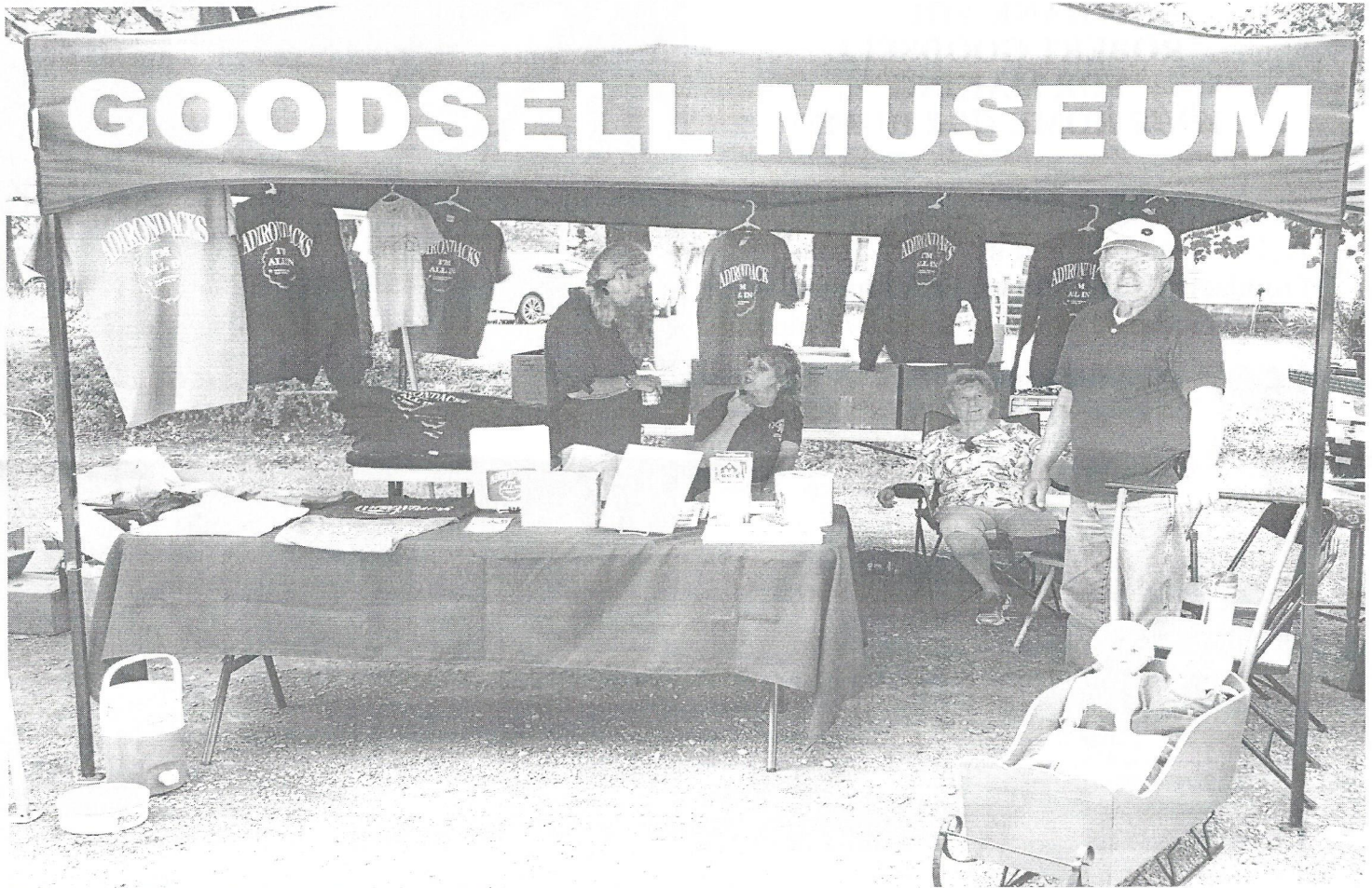
The Board of Trustees of the Historical Association
would like to thank the
Big Moose Community Chapel
for their invitation to use the chapel
as a venue for our summer lecture series.

We had 8 guest speakers talking about a variety of topics relating
to regional history, the forest, the environment and lots in between.

FULTON CHAIN

Thank you also to H. Stuart deCamp
who opened the Fulton Chain Town Hall for us again this summer.
We had 4 guest speakers who were
all informative and entertaining.

Talking history at the Old Forge Farmer's Market



Above:

Town of Webb Historian Peg Masters,
Trustees Donna Zuckert & Barb Proper
with Reed Proper

Each week, June thru October, we brought a different artifact to the Farmer's Market for conversation. The sled on the right was used by Leona Appleton DeLong (1916 - 2018) as an infant.

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RAFFLE

240829

CONGRATULATIONS TO
DAVE ETSEN
WINNER OF OUR 2018
RAFFLE

OUR MISSION

To preserve, protect, restore, and exhibit objects and properties of historic, natural and antiquarian interest from the Town of Webb for the education and enjoyment of the public.

WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS



Help promote our
Facebook page,
share our link
with a friend!

The Baker on Humphrey Hill

by Town of Webb Historian Peg Masters

"They don't have a lot of imagination up there," explained a regional author years ago who was responding to an inquiry on why the Fulton Chain of Lakes were numbered in descending order from Eighth Lake to First Lake. Hey, what about Bisby, Twitchell and Nicks Lakes, Mount Electra, Barton's Island, or Constable Creek? Or Wheeler Pond, McCauley Mountain and Humphrey Hill?

Humphrey Hill you may ask. Where is that? Access is noted by an official DEC marker on the Green Bridge Road near the Lock & Dam parking area. The late Lewis County author and historian Emily Williams and I stood at the trailhead several years ago. She identified this steep path as the one taken by Otis Arnold in 1868 when he decided to end his life by drowning in Nicks Lake after he had shot & killed a guide.



UNCLE WALT

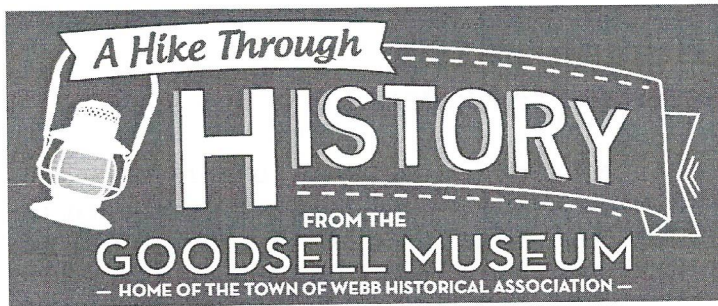
As an historian, I revel in tracking down the stories behind the place names in our Township. Most of the land around this trail, including Nicks Lake, was purchased from the Rhode Island descendants of Tract owner John Brown by a Lewis County lumberman, Lyman Lyon. Upon his death, the land was bequeathed to his descendants, the deCamp family. A century later, long-time Thendara resident Ceil Buckley (1913-2013) gave me a lead on the story of Humphrey Hill.

During her youth, she often stopped with her friends at Mr. Humphrey's cabin, located half-way up the trail to the lake. *"He always had some sweet treat for them and sometimes let them borrow one of the rowboats he kept to rent out to fishermen. Before that, he was a baker from Utica."*

Walter J. Humphrey was not a typical recluse living in an abandoned lumberman's cabin deep in the woods. During his tenure as the caretaker of Nicks Lake in the 1920s and 1930s, he warmly invited hundreds of visitors a year inside his rustic abode to sign a logbook and to view his collection of firearms, knives, and fishing gear. But it was the assortment of mandolins, banjos, an ancient piano, and the cylindrical records that he played on a rare vintage Edison phonograph that enthralled his guests.

"Uncle Walt," as he was known, spent many hours in quiet solitude under the big pine trees writing poetry and composing music on his guitar. He had participated in many musicales and a quartette in the past and often shared his tunes with visitors. Perhaps the death of his wife Nina in 1918 prompted him to abandon the conveniences of the civilized world but he was a loving and loved father and grandfather. And yes, Walter was a former bakery shop owner from Utica. He learned the confectionary trade from his father, William H. Humphrey, an immigrant in the 1850s from the British Isles who owned a fancy English Bakery store on Columbia Street in Utica for decades.

A passing fisherman found the lifeless body of Walter J. Humphrey, the baker, composer, and naturalist, in his beloved cabin on July 9, 1934. Walter once told a visiting newspaper man, *"the permanency and beauty of God's great out-of-doors gave him more comfort and pleasure than the ephemeral luxuries and amusements of mankind."* How nice it would be if we all were blessed with an *"Uncle Walt"* in our lives.



FUN FACTS

Test your history IQ

- Who was the last Civil War general to serve as president of the United States. He stood five feet six inches tall, and was called "Little Ben" by his Democratic opponents.
- In 1898, Harry Radford started a quarterly conservation magazine that was devoted solely to the Adirondacks. It had a circulation of over 20,000 readers. What was the name of this magazine?
- Chester Gillette got the electric chair for killing Grace Brown. At what prison was he put to death?
- The "Fourth Lake House" stood on the site of the present day picnic area off Petrie Rd. In 1902 it was renamed the "Manhassit". Who was the builder?
- Pullman Bros. Mill made sounding boards for what piano company?

(Benjamin Harrison, Woods & Water, Auburn Prison, George Goodsell, Beckwith Piano Co.)

WE REMEMBER

Peg & Doug Masters in memory of Mirnie Kashiwa, Ron Christenson in memory of Chris Gaige, Jane & Jerry Slack in memory of Louise Watson, Anna Mae Cooper and Elizabeth Tyler, Betty Rannels in memory of Charlie & June Kiefer and Louise Watson, Kathy Hollister in memory of Louise Watson, David Sperry in memory of the Sperry Family, Richard & Barbara Hart in memory of Tiny Lenhen, Jan Luck O'Connor in memory of Bob O'Connor, Karen Okoniewski in memory of Charlie & June Kiefer, Lou Foley in memory of John & Helen Foley, Jane & Gerald Slack in memory of Ginny Germer, Anne Garbarino in memory of Ginny Germer, Carol & Deke Morrison in memory of Chris Gaige, Kate Ohno in memory of Gertrude Wikander, Sandy Collard in memory of Lynda Kellogg, Louise Watson, Leona Delong, & Gloria Bolton, Peg Masters in memory of Tim Graham, Jane & Jerry Slack in memory of Tim Graham.

In Honor

Fred & Judy Ehrensbeck in honor of David's & Ethan's Teachers.
Bud & Lynn Meighan in honor of Doc and Judy Foley

